

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

HAIR et al.

Appln. No: 09/261,221

Filed: March 3, 1999

Title: OPTICAL VEND-SENSING SYSTEM  
FOR CONTROL OF VENDING MACHINE



Group Art Unit: 2878

Examiner: (unknown)

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August 1, 2000  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly add the following new claims:

58. (New) An optical vend-sensing system for control of a vending machine which has at least one mechanism arranged for initiating operation upon selection by a customer for vending an article into a vend space through which the article falls into a customer-accessible hopper, the vend space having a defined lateral width and a defined front-to-rear depth,

said sensing system comprising:

two reflecting surfaces, each mounted at opposed lateral extremes of said vend space;

an emitter of electromagnetic radiation arranged at one lateral extreme of said vend

space to emit electromagnetic radiation in a beam which is reflected off of each reflector at

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02 FC:203

189.00 OP

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